

# DIABETES

MELLITUS

•  
TYPE I&II



## Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

### What is this disease?

Diabetes comes in many different forms. In short, it is when the body is not able to properly regulate blood glucose (sugar). Glucose (sugar) is the body's fuel in a lot of ways; It is important in giving cells the energy they need to work properly. Insulin is the key that allows glucose to enter the cell. The type of diabetes we typically treat in animals is a result of decreased insulin production. As a result, diabetes is treated with insulin injections. Most pets are well regulated with insulin therapy. This means the body needs to be supplemented with insulin injections to function properly. (It is rare to manage pets without the use of insulin. Occasionally using oral medications or dietary changes is all that is needed.)

Please visit <http://www.prozinc.us/> to learn more about feline diabetes.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact your veterinarian via email or phone.

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To learn more about canine diabetes visit

<http://www.vetsulin.com>.

Also check out this helpful link from our website

<https://www.rowananimalclinic.com/drugs--diseases--surgical-procedures.html>

Diabetes is diagnosed using a combination of tests that can include testing both blood and urine. Diabetes is likely when there is glucose present in a urine sample (urinalysis) and when the blood glucose level is high (blood chemistry). Falsely elevated blood glucose levels are common due to stress in cats (not usually in dogs). Because of this your veterinarian may use a test to measure something called fructosamine. This is kind of like an average of what your pets blood sugars would have been at home when not stressed.

### What comes next?

We advise that newly diagnosed pets undergo blood testing to find the best dose of insulin for your pet. We want to tailor the treatment to your pet's specific needs. This is commonly known as a glucose curve. It may take more than one day of testing to find the proper dose for your pet.

### What comes later?

We will use additional blood glucose curves and/or Fructosamine testing to monitor your pet's response to therapy. These tests will be repeated for the following reasons:

1. 1-3 month follow-up after starting insulin
2. Anytime your pet is acting abnormal and/or drinking and peeing more than normal
3. Annual preventative care screening with wellness examination

### What should you plan for?

Management of this disease includes a strict diet (often a prescription diet). It also includes giving regular injections...soooo you must become comfortable handling needles. Be sure to budget for

## SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Please contact our reception team today!

### CALL

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### CLICK

[www.rowananimalclinic.com](http://www.rowananimalclinic.com)

annual preventative care screening, physical examination, the purchase of insulin and insulin syringes, and the occasional blood glucose curve. We have insulin and insulin syringes stocked in house or on our online store for your convenience.

### What should you watch out for?

At-home monitoring is extremely important. The biggest concern with diabetic pets is low blood sugar. If your pet is not responding well, seems groggy, or is pale you should assume your pet's blood sugar is low. Rub corn syrup or honey on the gums and under the tongue immediately. Seek veterinary help!!!!

Monitor your pet's bathroom habits closely. The first signs that your pet may be improperly managed are increases in drinking and peeing. Some clients choose to use special litter or urine strips to monitor for glucose in the urine. Ask your veterinarian if you would like to know more about these products.

Diabetic animals are also prone to urinary tract infections (UTI). Monitor closely for straining while peeing. Another sign of a UTI is peeing small amounts in lots of places. Pets may also have accidents in the house...it's not necessarily their fault; they may have a UTI.

### WARNING

WHEN IN DOUBT **SKIP THE INJECTION**. IF YOUR PET DIDN'T EAT, **SKIP THE INJECTION**. DO NOT DOUBLE UP OR GIVE THE INJECTION LATER TO MAKE UP FOR A MISSED DOSE. FOR CLIENTS THAT WANT TO BE MORE PROACTIVE THERE ARE AT HOME BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST KITS AVAILABLE. ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TESTING AT HOME.

### NOTE

Some cats may be able to achieve remission. To find out more ask your veterinarian or check out the handout "Diabetes: Remission"